associated with the super-VLAN before forwarding a data packet from the sub-VLAN over the

MAN using the at least one of a router and a switch.

17.   (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the modified MAC address learning

rule comprises a MAC address entry in a table stored in the switch performing the classification,

wherein the MAC address entry is added for each of the sub-VLAN and the super-VLAN when

the MAC address is learned from the sub-VLAN, and wherein the MAC address entry is added

for all of the plurality of sub-VLANs in the aggregated VLAN configuration and the super-

VLAN when the MAC address is learned from the super-VLAN.

18.   (Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

an electronically accessible medium providing instructions for aggregating multiple

VLANs in a metropolitan area network that, when executed by one or more processors, cause the

one or more processors to

classify a data packet originating from a sub-VLAN in accordance with an aggregated

VLAN configuration, the aggregated VLAN configuration associating the sub-VLAN with a

sub-VLAN ID and a super-VLAN ID;

classify a data packet originating from a super-VLAN in accordance with the aggregated

VLAN configuration, the aggregated VLAN configuration further associating the super-VLAN

with a super-VLAN ID and at least one of a plurality of sub-VLAN IDs; and

exchange the sub-VLAN ID for the super-VLAN ID before forwarding the data packet to

a MAN and exchanging the super-VLAN ID for the at least one sub-VLAN ID before

forwarding the data packet to a customer associated with the at least one sub-VLAN ID.